

## GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# Press Release

For Immediate Release:  
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### **NEW APPROACH FOR GEORGIA DOT REST AREAS AND WELCOME CENTERS**

ATLANTA – The Georgia Department of Transportation today released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for private companies interested in the development of a new program to provide improved services to the public at Georgia's 26 Rest Areas and Welcome Centers.

"We are looking for private partners to develop an innovative management program for these roadside facilities, a program that will pay for itself," said Georgia DOT Commissioner Vance C. Smith, Jr. "In that way, we can provide improved services where travel-weary motorists can rest and seek other comfort and information needs. At the same time we can leverage our limited funding by using the resources, expertise and creative abilities that private partners bring to the table."

Georgia DOT currently maintains nine welcome centers and 17 rest areas along the interstate system statewide. This project, being coordinated with the Federal Highway Administration and affected state agencies, seeks to offset the costs of maintenance and operation of these facilities through advertising and sponsorship. At least 40 percent of all messaging - printed or electronic - will be devoted to free public service announcements.

Once the RFQ is released, interested parties will have 60 days (by November 10) in which to respond. A Pre-Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) workshop is scheduled for September 21, at which respondents may present any questions or comments. The deadline for submitting questions and requests for clarification is September 28, to which GDOT will respond by October 8. By December 17, Georgia DOT intends to establish a shortlist of two to five respondents to whom an RFP will be issued.

A copy of the Notice of Intent, as well as additional information on the project, is available at [www.georgiaP3.com/restareas](http://www.georgiaP3.com/restareas).

The Georgia Department of Transportation is committed to providing a safe, seamless and sustainable transportation system that supports Georgia's economy and is sensitive to both its citizens and its environment. Additional transportation revenues are imperative to grow and sustain Georgia's economic vitality and quality of life through the 21st Century. Georgia is the 3rd fastest-growing state in the nation, yet 49th in per capita spending on transportation. For general information on the Georgia DOT, please visit ([www.dot.ga.gov](http://www.dot.ga.gov)).

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